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LETTER DATED 24 JULY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am obliged to respond to the letter of the Permanent Representative of south Korea of 16 July 1998, circulated as Security Council document S/1998/656.

South Korea is kicking up a ruckus against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea alleging that, on 12 July 1998, the body of an 'armed agent' was found, along with a propellant used for infiltration at the coast of Mukho, south Kangwon Province, which they concluded was an infiltration of an armed agent from us.

The so-called infiltration of an armed agent claimed by the south Korean authorities has nothing to do with us and, therefore, we are not concerned about it.

Despite the fact that there was no evidence that the body belonged to our side, they deliberately linked it with us. This act is aggravating the north-south confrontation.

Such a north-south confrontation racket made by the south Korean authorities is a premeditated plot aimed at spoiling the atmosphere of reconciliation and cooperation now emerging between the north and the south of Korea.

The south Korean authorities forced our crew of the wrecked submarine to commit suicide, instead of rescuing them, and are now fabricating an incident of the so-called 'armed agent'.

We demand an apology from the south Korean authorities and strongly urge them to stop aggravating the north-south confrontation at the United Nations forum.

I should be grateful if you could have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) LI Hyong Chol
Ambassador
Permanent Representative